

## I ASPIRA Background and Track Record

ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey was established in Newark, New Jersey in 1968. It is one of six (6) state associations in the country that compose the ASPIRA National Association. ASPIRA of N.J. serves students state-wide and presently has centers in Passaic County, Hudson County and Essex County

The organizational mission of ASPIRA is to promote leadership development and to actualize the educational opportunities of Puerto Rican, Hispanic and other minority youth. ASPIRA draws on a wide range of ancillary programs and expertise which have collectively become known as the "ASPIRA Process." Services that are made available through the process include workshops in career awareness, guidance in course selection, leadership training through the organizational club configuration, field experiences, self-image building, cultural development, tutorial assistance and post-secondary placement.

ASPIRA was a founder of the Hispanic Association for Higher Education of New Jersey, the only organization representing Hispanic educators and professionals in higher education in the state. ASPIRA's Executive Director serves on the President's Council on Affirmative Action of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the New Jersey State EOF Board, and the Executive Committee of the Newark Collaboration and various other state and local organizations.

The Executive Director and the program staff are in close contact with New Jersey Colleges & Universities. ASPIRA's resources are tapped by these institutions and community groups to offer training, workshops and seminars at the various campuses and locations. The success of the ASPIRA Process in New Jersey is noteworthy. Since its inception, ASPIRA of New Jersey has served over 21,000 students while placing over 4,000 in post-secondary institutions or training programs. While the majority of the students who have benefited from Aspira's programs are Puerto Ricans and Hispanics, the agency will serve any student meeting the requirements of our funding sources or of our programs. As a result, in New Jersey, 10% of these students served have been black. A (1983) independent study conducted by Coca Cola USA, on national Hispanic concerns, identified ASPIRA as the organization which has most effectively met the educational and training needs of the Hispanic Community.

## ABSTRACT OF ASPIRA

### A. Mission

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is chartered as a non-profit educational corporation to:

- develop the intellectual and creative capacity of Puerto Ricans and all other without regard to race, creed, color or natural origin by motivating and orienting said Puerto Ricans and others, without regard to race, creed, color or national origin, to enter and/or continue their education in the professions, the arts, and technical fields, so that such persons may offer their training, skills and dedication to the betterment of the community and the solutions of community problems.
- plan, create, program, carryout, implement and coordinate through studies, research, surveys, consultation, supervision, guidance, counseling and action a comprehensive program designed to develop, motivate and orient all capable applicants in and toward the education and intellectual development of themselves and to do any and all lawful acts and things which may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable and proper for the furtherance and attainment of any or all of the purpose of the corporation.

This general charge has been translated by the ASPIRA Board of Directors into two specific tasks:

- 1) The maintenance of a Leadership Development Program designed to prepare students to better contribute to the solution of community problems by assuming their due place at the forefront of community action activities targeted at the betterment of the community.
- 2) The maintenance of an Educational Counseling and Placement Program designed to assist students as they make educational decisions — (high school retention, high school graduation, college and technical school placement, career counseling and advisement, professional school counseling and placement).

ASPIRA INC. OF NEW JERSEY  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT / DROP-OUT PREVENTION PROGRAM  
PROJECTIONS FOR THE TRENTON PROGRAM 1987-88

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SUMMARY OF SERVICES

-EDUCATIONAL/PERSONAL COUNSELING

The following areas of counseling will be provided to students:

- \*Career
- \*Academic
- \*Admissions
- \*Financial
- \*Personal
- \*Home Visit
- \*Other

-WORKSHOPS

The following topics will be covered:

HIGH SCHOOL

- \*S.A.T. Review
- \*Study Skills
- \*Career Interest
- \*College Life
- \*F.A.F. Review
- \*Peer Relations

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- \*Career Exploration
- \*Cultural/Educational
- \*Peer Relations
- \*College Information
- \*Job Search
- \*RSPT

(several of the workshops will be given twice a year)

-FIELD TRIPS

We are projecting a total of 5 field trips will take place to the following locations:

- \*institutions of higher learning
- \*corporations
- \*vocational institutions

-CONFERENCES

We are projecting the following conferences will take place:

- \*Leadership Conference at Princeton Education Center / Nov.6th-8th
- \*Career Conference at Felician College / Nov.20th
- \*Legal and Law Enforcement Conference in Trenton / Dec. 4th
- \*Health Career Conference / Feb.
- \*Youth Conference / April.
- \*Awards Night Ceremony / June.

### -ASPIRA CLUBS

The clubs are required to meet twice a month and are involved in the following:

- \*all ASPIRA activities
- \*fundraising activities for club purposes
- \*recreational activities
- \*leadership development

### -POST SECONDARY PLACEMENT

We are projecting to accomplish the following:

\*assist in placing 70% of all seniors on the caseload into post-secondary institutions.

### -TARGET SCHOOLS

	Trenton High School	Junior High School #4
Caseload	70	70